

Unfinished 431

Chapter 431

Besides, his mother is somebody who has been hidden away for so many years! How can I, who just became his girlfriend not long ago, meet her so soon?! What if we break up in the future?! Wouldn't I spill the beans on where his mother is hidden if somebody threatens me? No, I can't meet her! Definitely not! "No way, I'm not mentally prepared for it."

Eugene laughed out loud. "It's not like I'm asking you to marry me tomorrow; what do you need to be mentally prepared for? Don't worry; my mother is very easy to get along with!" When he saw that Olivia was still hesitating, he added, "To be honest, I wanted to ask you for a favor too. After the car accident, the nerves in my mother's legs were damaged. Even now, she has trouble walking. If you go, it's a good chance for you to examine her too!"

Upon hearing that, Olivia fell silent.

By the time Brian woke up, it was already the next morning. Looking around, he discovered that he was in Olivia's house. Moreover, Eugene was sleeping on the sofa next to him. Does that mean we slept over at her house? Rubbing his sore neck, he immediately recalled the events of yesterday. Thus, his anger flared up uncontrollably again.

Sitting up, he heard Eugene's voice before he could even move. "Keep your voice down. Olivia and her son are still asleep!"

Then, he glared at Eugene furiously, only to realize that Eugene had yet to even open his eyes. The anger boiling inside him had nowhere to go. Although he didn't argue with Eugene, he didn't want to stay under the same roof as Eugene. Thus, he put on his shoes to leave.

Before he took more than two steps, he heard Eugene saying in a lazy voice, "Don't you want to know the truth?"

Brian stopped in his tracks and glanced back at Eugene. "Are you going to justify yourself again?"

At that moment, Eugene slowly opened his eyes. "I'm not justifying anything. If you want to know the truth, then come with us later!"

Brian subconsciously put his guard up. "Where to?"

The corners of Eugene's mouth lifted into a mocking smile. "What else can I do to you?"

Brian retorted, "You're somebody who can even kill your own mother! What can't you do to me?"

He knew that if he said that, Eugene would become angry. However, he refused to let things go Eugene's way. Just as he expected, Eugene looked furious upon hearing those words. Then, Eugene sighed. After a long while, he slowly uttered, "That's enough. Don't look at me with that expression as if I owe you something. I will tell you everything today."

Brian narrowed his eyes in response. "About what?"

Eugene stood up. "You'll know when you get there."

After saying that, he headed into the kitchen. Last night, he had soaked the rice well. So, he pressed the button on the rice cooker to make congee. Then, he went to the fridge and took out the ingredients to prepare breakfast.

At first, Brian planned to leave. However, it felt as if his legs were caught by tree roots—he could not move no matter what he did. Looking at the figure busy working in the kitchen, his emotions slowly calmed down and he began to wonder whether the words Isaac said could be trusted. Would a man willing to cook for his wife and child in the kitchen really be a murderer who killed his own mother? Should I investigate this some more before I decide on anything? After all, what I learned last night was

so difficult to accept that I lost control of my emotions. Just then, the door to the bedroom opened with a soft click, and he glanced in the direction of the sound.

Olivia was wearing fluffy, pink pajamas as she walked out of the bedroom. Her face was bare without any traces of makeup. Then, she greeted him softly and sleepily. Her voice was still hoarse from sleep as she said, "Good morning, Brian."

She was treating him as usual.

On the other hand, Brian stood there awkwardly and responded vaguely, "Good morning."

She didn't stay for long in the living room. Instead, she went directly into the kitchen and leaned close to Eugene. "What is my boyfriend making for breakfast?"

Eugene placed the things in his hands down and turned around. Hugging her, he kissed her on the forehead. Then, he held her as he said, "I was thinking of making sauteed spinach with garlic, radish soup with vermicelli, congee, hard-boiled eggs..."

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Listening to their conversation in the kitchen, Brian felt like he was in a daze. It felt like he had gone back to the day before—before he learned about the truth. Can I still think of them as my brother and his wife?

While he was still deep in his thoughts, Olivia's voice rang out from the kitchen. "Brian, do you have anything you want to eat? You can ask your brother to make it for you."

He snorted in response, "No need!"

However, she didn't get dejected by his response. "Then, why don't I make you some pickles in soy sauce?"

He didn't respond. It wasn't that he didn't want to eat it, but that he didn't know what that was.

At the dining table, Brian stared at the plate of black shredded radish. Are you telling me that's the legendary pickles in soy sauce?

Olivia explained awkwardly, "Your brother said it's delicious."

Actually, Olivia found it rather tasty too.

Glancing at her suspiciously, he hesitantly took a bite of the pickles in soy sauce. It was very crisp and not as salty as he imagined it to be. Although it didn't look good, it certainly was tasty! He nodded. "It's delicious!"

Then, she happily glanced over at Eugene. "Do you think I've learned a new specialty dish?"

Eugene smiled encouragingly. "Yeah. You have four specialty dishes now."

After breakfast, the four of them left the house. North was on school holiday. So, he came with them too. First, they took a three-hour-long flight. After that, they went to the pier and boarded a cruise ship.

It was North's first time taking a boat and everything was a curious sight to him. Thus, he ran about excitedly; one moment he would dash onto the deck to enjoy the wind, and the next moment he would run back to the cabin to listen to their conversations.

"Where are we going?" Brian asked again.

In response, Eugene glanced at him. "Why do you keep asking? Won't you know when you get there?"

On the other hand, North smiled in great delight. I know; we're going to Promise Island. It's my daddy's private property. Just the island itself is worth several billion! How's that?! My daddy can get rid of everything that isn't satisfactory! More importantly, he treats Mommy well! Thus, he couldn't hide the triumphant expression on his face. Delightedly swinging his legs from the chair, he looked like he was bragging no matter how one looked at him.

In contrast to North's swaggering look, Olivia looked inexplicably uneasy. I wonder what Eugene's mother will think about a woman with a child, like me? Will she look down on me? What if she dislikes me? After all, she is his biological mother! Mired in anxiety, the boat docked at the port—they had arrived at Promise Island.

It was already late afternoon by the time they arrived outside and the light of the setting sun was stunningly gorgeous! Olivia took in her surroundings. It was not the barren land that she had imagined. Rather, it was lush and full of life. The beach and the beach umbrellas... It was quite a well-developed island; moreover, it was a tourist attraction with beautiful scenery!

However, Eugene led them in through a different entrance. When the bodyguard by the door noticed Eugene, he immediately greeted him politely, "Mr. Nolan!"

Eugene replied, "Hi. How is the business recently?"

"It's going swimmingly! The north is getting cold, so it's the peak season for us," the man said as he led them inside.

They were in an extremely private area. The tourists were all gathered at the tourist attractions, so nobody would come to this side. Besides, workers were managing this place all year round. This place put Eugene at ease. Unfortunately, it was a little far from the city and coming here was a hassle.

On the other hand, Brian became more and more confused. I heard of Promise Island a long time ago. I even talked about it with other people. We were discussing who had such foresight to buy up this

place and turn it into such a lucrative business. It looks like it has something to do with Eugene. Otherwise, this man wouldn't have addressed him as Mr. Nolan. I can tell he comes here frequently.

While he was still caught in a daze, Olivia's eyes started to blur. This place is so beautiful!

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When I'm older, I want to find a place like this to live out my elderly years!

On the other hand, North had a delighted expression on his face all this while. He looked like he was very proud of his father!

They walked around a rocky cliff and traversed through a maze-like path for a long while before they arrived at a villa. It was a three-story villa with stand-alone buildings on both sides and an intricately carved gate. Upon walking inside, they were greeted with a cobblestone path. Moreover, there were all sorts of rare vegetation planted in the garden. Not only that, but even the swimming pool and the garden were very well-maintained. One glance was enough to tell that the owner here was very stylish! It was spring all year round, and the scenery was beautiful. Thus, it was the perfect place for somebody to recuperate from their illness!

Eugene felt inexplicably touched. I finally managed to bring Olivia here! My mother has always asked me to bring Olivia here for her to see, but I didn't dare to tell Olivia about the ugly side of the Nolan Family. I was afraid that it would scare her away. It seems like my dispute with Brian this time around isn't without any benefits!

Meanwhile, Olivia became extremely nervous for some reason, and her hand, which was held by Eugene, started sweating slightly. However, North bounced around excitedly. He didn't seem to have the self-awareness of being at somebody else's house.

On the other hand, Brian glanced about his surroundings. The yard gave him an inexplicably familiar feeling. The nearer he got, the stronger that feeling became. All of a sudden, he realized why. Isn't this how my house used to look more than 10 years ago? Even the positioning of the plants is the same! Those are the tulips and the lavender that my mother used to love. Even the swing is placed in the

same position! His heart began to pound wildly. Why does this place look so similar to my house? Why did Eugene bring me here? Don't tell me... No; no. No... That's impossible! Mom has been dead for so many years. How can she still be alive?

Despite that, he subconsciously wanted to learn the answer to his questions. Thus, his steps became longer and longer. The door to the house was ajar. As soon as he entered the house, he saw a woman sitting on the sofa, hugging a little orange cat in her arms. She rebukingly said, "You're way too lazy! How can you snuggle against me and fall asleep?!" As she spoke, she stood up and headed toward the bedroom.

Brian started trembling uncontrollably, and his tears began to fall. It's really Mom! She's alive...

At the same time, Olivia widened her eyes in surprise. Didn't Eugene say she had difficulty walking?! Then, she glared at Eugene accusingly as if rebuking him for lying to her!

Eugene burst out laughing. If I didn't say that I needed her to come and treat my mother, she wouldn't have come! However, he simply touched her comfortingly as she was about to explode from anger. "To

be honest, she's been cured. Even so, I don't feel at ease. So, I would like you to examine her, please!" After saying that, he shouted toward the woman who was heading back to her bedroom, "Mom—"

The woman paused and turned back abruptly. When she saw the four people standing by the door, she was completely taken aback. She studied Olivia curiously, then looked at North. Finally, her gaze landed on Brian, and her tears instantly caused her vision to go blurry. "Brian—" Then, she stumbled toward them.

Brian's eyes were red-rimmed. After the joy that came with knowing his mother was still alive, it transformed into a strong sense of bitterness. She is still alive. Yet, she has never even contacted me once throughout these years. She didn't care about how much I missed her and longed for her; she didn't care that I became enemies with Eugene because of that incident; she didn't care that I had been all alone without anybody to lean on! More annoyingly, Eugene knew everything, but he said nothing! He has been playing me for a fool! "Did you fake your death just to be rid of me?!"

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Brian's hoarse voice was so soft that it was barely audible. Perhaps that was the reason he looked like a wounded hedgehog—he was attacking everybody in sight!

Ellen McCarthy strode over to him and grabbed his arm. "That's not—"

However, he reacted explosively, throwing her hand off his arm as he yelled, "That's not what?! You're alive, but you never told me! Why?!" He felt like crying, and his tears welled up in his eyes. Not wanting to be seen by others, he turned and fled into the bedroom.

Then, Eugene sighed exasperatedly. “Olivia, why don’t you and North keep my mother company here? I’m going after him!”

Upon hearing those words, Olivia subconsciously wanted to reach out and stop him. How am I supposed to keep your mother company?! I don’t know what to say! Even so, it was clear that she had no choice in the matter.

Meanwhile, Ellen watched as Eugene chased after Brian. After that, she withdrew her gaze and smiled helplessly. “You’re Olivia, right? I’m sorry you had to see that.”

Olivia shook her head in response. “It’s nothing, Mrs. Nolan.”

Ellen leaned down and looked at North, asking, “You’re my lil’ grandson, right? Your daddy always talks about you!”

Grinning widely, North answered, “Hello, Grandma!”

Hearing him call her ‘Grandma’ made her very happy. “What a good boy! Come on in.”

Thus, Olivia and North went inside. As soon as they walked in, North saw the little orange cat. “Grandma, what’s its name?”

“It’s called Ginger.”

His eyes shone with excitement. Picking up a ball, he played with the cat. “Come here, Ginger. Ginger, look here—”

On the other hand, Olivia swallowed nervously. How I wish I could borrow some of the naturally familiar nature of that little b*stard. Why the hell am I so nervous anyway?!

Then, Ellen glanced at the nervous Olivia. "Have a seat, Olivia. Don't be so nervous; just think of this place like your own home. I've heard a lot about you from Eugene. I didn't expect you to be so beautiful."

Olivia gave an embarrassed laugh. "Mrs. Nolan, you're very beautiful too." Her words were honest. Ellen was an intellectual beauty. All her gestures were overflowing with the grace of a lady. One could tell immediately that she was a gentlewoman. Compared to Lara, who had an aggressive beauty, Ellen gave off a more comfortable feeling.

Ellen smilingly replied, "What do you mean? I'm an old lady now. Has Eugene told you about our story?"

In response, Olivia nodded. "Eugene told me about it yesterday. Brian came looking for revenge, thinking that Eugene had sent his men to run you down. The bruises on their faces were caused by their fight yesterday!"

"No wonder; I was just thinking that their faces were terribly bruised."

"Yes. It's no big deal. It's all external injuries, and I've treated them."

Upon hearing that, Ellen sighed in frustration. "Sigh. All this while, I've been trying to persuade Eugene. Revenge breeds revenge; when will it end? But, their harassment has gone too far." After saying that, she smiled in embarrassment. "Recently, Eugene looks livelier. Still, I can tell that he is very happy during his visit here this time around. Besides, he seems to have gained some weight! It's all because you've been taking so good care of him!"

The corners of Olivia's mouth twitched slightly. Me? Take care of him? Is that a joke? Can I tell her that her son is the one cooking three meals a day? But, will my mother-in-law think that I'm a useless girlfriend? "To be honest... he is the one taking care of me most of the time."

"Well, that's fine. You're a small family, so it's the same no matter who takes care of whom."

Olivia didn't know how to respond. What does she mean by a small family? We've only been dating for slightly more than a month! Ever since I started interacting with Eugene, it feels like I've been pushed into a lot of things against my will. After carelessly agreeing to make him my boyfriend, I wanted to test

him out for a while. Unfortunately, my senior came to visit during that time, and to appease that man, my trial boyfriend became my official boyfriend.

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I was tricked into visiting my future mother-in-law. And now, we've turned into a small family! Please, our relationship isn't progressing that quickly!

Ellen looked over to North, who had been playing with the little orange cat. Then, she smiled warmly. "My dear grandson, what is your name? Come here and let me hug you."

"Grandma, my name is North Maxwell."

Her smile widened. "Oh, my. Come here, North. Let me hold you."

Thus, he walked over. Naturally, he didn't put his entire weight on her. Instead, he symbolically embraced her. "My grandson is so handsome! You look just like your daddy when he was younger!"

Olivia found herself speechless. This mother-in-law of mine is really going overboard with her compliments! How can my son possibly take after her son?!

"Grandma, don't you think I look like you too?"

Ellen was beside herself with joy upon hearing those words. "Haha... you're right! You look like me too!"

On the other hand, Olivia stared at North speechlessly. Look at how hard that little b*stard is trying! When he starts sweet-talking somebody, he will sweet-talk them without reservation as long as he can get away with it! I can still barely accept hearing the words 'like your daddy'. To be honest, I find that Eugene and that bratty son of mine are inexplicably similar sometimes even though I can't tell exactly how they're alike. It's probably the influence they have on each other after living together for a long time. Don't they say a couple starts resembling each other after living together for a long while?

Perhaps it works for fathers and sons too. Still, what the hell does he mean by he looks like his grandma too?!

Hugging the little guy, Ellen asked, "What do you want to eat for dinner? I'll make it for you."

North mulled over it briefly then said, "I want to eat spicy crayfish!"

She replied, "Sure! That's one of my specialty dishes!" Then, she stood up. "Olivia, do you have anything you want to eat?"

Olivia thought to herself, A person who can't cook doesn't have the right to be picky. "I'm good with anything."

"Okay then. Why don't the two of you wait here while I prepare dinner for you!" Ellen said as she headed into the kitchen.

However, Olivia suddenly panicked for some reason. What should I do? I'm the girlfriend of her son! It'll be bad if I don't help her out in the kitchen, right? But, I really can't cook! Sh*t; why isn't Eugene back yet?! Thus, she was conflicted over whether she should go over and make a fool of herself in the kitchen or just wait to eat once the food was ready. At worst, I'll be labeled as rude for not doing anything anyway.

To her surprise, North walked into the kitchen and tugged at Ellen's clothes with his small hands. Widening his large, black eyes, he asked, "Grandma, can Mommy bring me outside to look around?"

Ellen smilingly replied, "Sure. Go on then. Don't go too far, alright?"

When Olivia heard those words, she was so touched that she nearly shed tears. After that, she stood up and walked outside with the little guy. Stroking his head, she asked, "Son, why did you suddenly think of asking me to come outside with you?"

North had a speechless look on his face. "It's not like you can just wait around idly for the food to be ready. However, if you went into the kitchen, you'd make a fool of yourself because you can't cook. What else would you do if you don't come outside?"

At first, she thought her son was being considerate of her. Unfortunately, his words made her feel as if her self-esteem had taken a beating. "Sigh. It's not like I can't cook at all, okay? Didn't you say that the food I cook is delicious? How can you change your mind so quickly, you hypocrite?!"

He retorted, "Mommy, not everybody can appreciate your cooking. Uncle Eugene and I consider your cooking delicious because we love everything about you—both the good and the bad!"

She was not convinced by his explanation. "Who said that? Didn't Brian say that it was delicious too? He finished my pickles in soy sauce as well as my sesame noodles!"

He stopped in his tracks; his gaze was cold as he looked at her. "Why don't we go back then? You can go and help out in the kitchen."

Olivia said nothing. Is he trying to threaten me? "You don't even consider yourself an outsider, do you? How can you call her 'Grandma' so familiarly?"

North looked at her. "If I don't call her 'Grandma', am I supposed to call her 'Mrs. Nolan' like you?"

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Olivia fell silent. Which family does this cheeky brat belong to? "You could have called her 'Madam Nolan'!"

In response, North threatened, "Why don't you say that to Uncle Eugene?"

"Say what? Worse still, how could you say that you looked like your grandma?! Which part of you looks like her?!"

“My mouth! Don’t you think so too?”

She snorted. “Nope. Your mouth looks more like mine!”

“It looks like my grandma’s too!”

Upon hearing those words, she was rendered speechless again. Sigh. He’s not listening to me anymore. Is the little b*stard in his rebellious phase? Why are there so many people popping up to steal my son from me?!

On the other side, Eugene finally found Brian. Brian was like a raging bull, rushing forward without heed and ignoring Eugene, who was calling out to him from behind. In the end, Eugene lost his patience. Striding forward, he grabbed Brian. “Where are you going?!”

Brian shoved him away angrily. “It’s none of your business!”

Staggering backward after being pushed away, Eugene yelled at him, “You’re my younger brother; who else am I supposed to care for if not you?!”

Brian was so furious that he was seeing red. “Mom is alive and well. It has been so many years since the incident! Why didn’t you tell me?! Do you really regard me as your brother?! Were you happy watching me suffering and struggling every single day?!”

Meanwhile, Eugene simply sighed in frustration—he merely watched as his brother threw a tantrum, just like when they were younger. “At the time, the doctor told me that Mom might end up in a vegetative state. How could I dare to leave you with her? You couldn’t even take care of yourself; how could you take care of Mom if she were in a vegetative state?! They dared to harm Mom once. If so, it would surely happen again. How were you going to take care of her?!”

“Even if you had to take her away, couldn’t you have told me?!”

“Were we on talking terms? Would you have listened to me back then?!”

That sentence took the wind out of Brian's sails—he couldn't refute it. Last time, they started fighting every single time they met. The best possible outcome was that the meeting ended in nothing more than a heated quarrel. If things took a turn for the worse, they would end up in a scuffle, just like last night. I have never trusted Eugene. If it wasn't for Olivia acting as the middleman bridging us together during this period, our relationship would never improve to the point where we could sit at the same table and share a meal!

Eugene sighed helplessly. "You were only safe if we were at odds with each other! Brian, I wasn't greedy for riches—I was planning my revenge! If all three of us left the family with nothing but the clothes on our back, we would have nothing. Back then, the two of us were still students, and the Mccarthy Family refused to take us in. Moreover, your health was in a precarious situation where you needed treatment at any time. How could I get my revenge if I had to worry about how we were going to afford our next meal every single day?"

Brian replied aggrievedly, "Then, would it have killed you to inform me beforehand?"

Then, Eugene looked at the setting sun in the distance. "At first, I just didn't want you to become like me. I was less than human at the time. I was cold and unfeeling, and the only thought in my head was to exact revenge on them—if possible, I even wanted to kill them. For that reason, I wished for you to live a normal life. I didn't want you to live in the shadows the way I did." Looking at Brian, he continued, "If I had told you the truth... are you saying I should have asked you to die with me?"

Brian squatted down on the ground abruptly and covered his face as his tears flowed out between the seams of his fingers. "Who said we had to die? Couldn't we have thought up a solution together? You couldn't even tell me that Mom was still alive..."

Eugene replied, "Mom only got better recently. Although she wasn't braindead after the car accident, she was paralyzed from the waist down for many years. By chance, I came across an expert, who helped me out only after I agreed to fulfill one condition of his. Later, Mom slowly recovered. Since then, I've wanted to tell you. But, you looked like you wanted to kill me every time we met. Besides, you

would surely visit her frequently after finding out she was alive. I was worried that you might be followed one day. If that happened, Mom would be in danger again."

Glaring at Eugene unhappily, he retorted, "Am I that foolish?"

Eugene returned his look with a cold glare of his own. “Aren’t you? Then, how did the injuries on my face come about? You nearly killed me!”

In the end, Brian looked a little guilty. “Serves you right! It’s your fault for not saying anything to me! Moreover, you even stayed behind with the Nolan Family for revenge! So, why haven’t you carried out your revenge yet?! With your current influence, you can get rid of them, right?!”

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Eugene glanced at Brian, then he sighed again. “Now, I have many worries to consider. I’m not as impulsive as I was when I was younger. After you and Mom left, I indeed tried to plot against Edward and Lara. I hired people to assassinate them and also tried to kill them with an overdose of sleeping pills. However, every one of my attempts was foiled by them. The people I hired were incomparable to their bodyguards. Moreover, they didn’t even touch the dish I spiked with sleeping pills. After that, Grandpa even punished me greatly. He told me that they dared to let me remain by their side because they knew what sort of intentions I had in my heart. Somebody has always been beside me, monitoring me, even until now. At that time, I realized that it was an extremely difficult task for me to exact my revenge. Since then, I have obediently played my role as the young master of the Nolan Family. I studied hard—it didn’t matter whether it was useful or not. I studied everything. When they saw that I was becoming more dependable, they finally relaxed their guard on me. Now, I can go up against them. But, I don’t want to trouble Grandpa. How is he supposed to choose between his son and his grandson?”

Brian snorted with a disapproving expression. “You sure considered many things.”

Eugene’s expression darkened and he said solemnly, “Brian, you can hate Edward and Lara. But, Grandpa has always been protecting us. The Mccarthy Family took you in because Grandpa called them personally. Also, if it wasn’t for Grandpa helping me secretly back then, Mom would have died. The fact that I can survive for so long and take over as the head of the house of the Nolan Family is all due to Grandpa’s influence. Otherwise, I would never achieve the success I have today!”

For a long while, Brian said nothing. He finally asked awkwardly after a long while, “Isaac mentioned that he was working for you. Did you arrange for the car accident to happen?”

Eugene replied, “Yes, he works for me, but I sent him to protect you guys from the shadows. After the car accident occurred, I didn’t realize that there was a conspiracy going on. Only later did I realize that things were a little strange. There’s a high possibility that he was somebody Lara had deliberately sent

to me. Her purpose was to drive a wedge between us. Don't kill him yet. We need to question him carefully when we return. I'm sure we'll be able to figure out the mastermind behind everything."

Afterward, both of them slowly headed back. Coincidentally, they were just in time to see Olivia and North coming outside. Thus, Eugene happily went over to them. "Why did the two of you come out here?"

Olivia thought to herself, I can't say I escaped outside because I was afraid of making a fool of myself in the kitchen, can I? Therefore, she glanced at North as she replied, "North said he wanted to come outside to explore the place."

In response, North lifted his small head to look at Olivia. Fine, my darling Mommy. I'll let this pass. I'll take the blame for this!

When she saw that the little guy wasn't about to expose her lies, she quickly continued, "This place is absolutely beautiful!"

Pointing at the highest peak of the corridor, Eugene said, "Why don't I bring you there? The scenery from that point is even more beautiful." After saying that, he directed his next words at Brian, "Brian, why don't you go back for now?"

Brian was slightly taken aback. He knew that Eugene was intentionally creating a chance for him to have some alone time with his mother. Although he felt very uneasy, he didn't say anything else as he left with a noncommittal grunt.

Watching Brian as he left, Olivia asked, "Have you cleared the air with Brian?"

Eugene replied, "Yeah."

"Did he say anything? Was he understanding?"

He said, "I told him everything clearly. What else is there to not understand?"

She glanced at him coldly. "If I were Brian, I would be suspicious. Who knows if what you said was the truth?"

Pausing in his steps, he replied, "I had no reason to deceive him!"

She glared at him again. "So, you have a reason to deceive me?"

For a moment, he couldn't think of any instances in which he had deceived her. Hence, he frowned. "When have I ever lied to you?"

Olivia glared at him sharply, and her voice was cool as she said, "It might be exaggerating to say that your mother is perfectly fine. But, isn't she walking just fine?"

Then, Eugene seemed to have a sudden realization. Oh, it's about this issue. Thus, he hurriedly smiled and explained, "I wasn't really lying. My mother couldn't walk properly until several years back. Afterward, I met an unusual expert who agreed to cure my mother. However, no matter how hard I tried to search for him after that, I couldn't find him again. So, I honestly wanted you to come and examine my mother to see if she is fully healed."

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Olivia pouted. "Is that all? Are you sure you weren't being selfish?"

Under Olivia's gaze, Eugene swallowed hard and he didn't dare to argue against her. Before he could even start talking, he shot her a flattering smile.

"Actually, I did have some ulterior motives. I talk to Mom very often; she knows about you and has seen your pictures before. She has been asking to meet you, so I decided to take this opportunity and bring you over."

As she glared at Eugene, Olivia was about to leave. Just when she turned around, Eugene held her hand and said pitifully, "Olivia, please don't be angry. You know Brian wouldn't come with me if you weren't

coming too. If that was the case, I'm not sure when the misunderstanding between us would be solved, so I could only ask for your help."

Although Olivia was slightly irritated, she knew that it wasn't because of the lie Eugene had told her, but it was because she was worried.

Olivia was definitely not prepared and Eugene had tricked her to the island to meet his mother. She was worried that his mother would be prejudiced toward her, but she felt like she couldn't tell Eugene about this, so all she could do was glare at him.

Indistinctly, North said, "Mommy, nothing is embarrassing about eating what has already been prepared!"

Olivia and Eugene were dazed. But then Eugene let out a chuckle and said, "It's okay. Mom knew you couldn't cook. She even told me to take good care of you."

Immediately, Olivia was embarrassed. "You... You're really..."

Couldn't he save face for her?

While Eugene wrapped his arm around Olivia's shoulders, he held North with his other hand. "This is nothing. Mom has been through so many things in her life. She is very open-minded. Besides, she only hopes for me and Brian to be happy. You're the one that can make us happy, so there's no reason for her to hate you."

Upon hearing that, Olivia gave him a single glance. "I don't care what you're trying to say now. I'm still going to hold you responsible for your lies! You're not allowed to visit my house for three days after we go back!"

Eugene was rendered speechless.

Breaking away from his hold, Olivia marched forward arrogantly. The two of them made their way to the highest point of Promise Island and looked back at the lush greenery, the pavilion, the cloister, and the fences in the distance. Everything was windy—like a dragon making its way up the hill.

The seaside was the most beautiful at this point. The sun was setting silently at the horizon; the colorful clouds gathered and illuminated rays of evening sunlight. The only things left hanging in the sky were the dreamlike red, orange, and yellow rays—it looked as if gold was sprinkled from the sky.

The clouds were finely outlined in the sky, turning the sky into an ink painting.

The evening breeze that was mixed with the fragrance of flowers and trees was very refreshing.

Olivia exhaled deeply and exclaimed, “This place is so beautiful!”

Laughing softly, Eugene answered, “When we’re old, we can come and stay here for the rest of our lives.”

Olivia was surprised that Eugene actually had the same idea as her.

Looking toward Olivia, Eugene inquired, “Why are you looking at me like this?”

With cold eyes, Olivia scowled. “I’m wondering how long I can bear with you if you keep on lying to me like this.”

Instantly, Eugene’s hair stood on end. He reached out and grabbed her hand. “S-Stay strong, Olivia. I promise I won’t hide anything from you anymore.”

Olivia almost laughed out loud when she heard his words. She didn’t know how this man could say something like that in such a serious manner.

Throwing him a coy glance, she started walking back. She said, “If you ever lie to me again, then you can come here to live by yourself for the rest of your life!”

Her response left Eugene at a loss for words.

When Eugene and Olivia finally came home, they found Ellen and Brian crying in one another's arms. It seemed like the two of them had finally talked it out.

Ellen asked Brian, "Do you still faint very often?"

Shaking his head, Brian said, "Not anymore. Olivia has cured me. I haven't fainted for a long time, and I don't have a headache anymore."

Chapter 439

Ellen was surprised. "Olivia? Your sister-in-law?"

Brian smiled as he nodded. "That's right. She's super amazing!"

Suddenly, something came into her mind and Ellen said, "Eugene told me that she's the one who cured your grandpa's sickness, and now she has even treated yours. I didn't expect my daughter-in-law to be so marvelous."

As she was saying this, her eyes were glistening.

Standing by the door, Eugene glanced toward Olivia, looking like he was trying to say, "You see that? Mom is very satisfied with you."

Olivia had to admit that Ellen's remarks had got rid of the uneasiness in her heart. Tightening her lips, she was feeling a little bit happy.

Eugene led Olivia and North into the living room. "Later, you can ask Olivia to give you an examination too."

Rising to her feet, Ellen laughed. "I'm okay. You don't have to worry about me. Go wash your hands; dinner's ready."

Locking eyes with each other in secret, both North and Olivia broke into a smile.

The three of them washed their hands and went to the dining table.

"Olivia, Brian told me that you cured him. You're so amazing. I found many doctors to look at his complications but none of them had any idea. I didn't expect that you could help him. I... I really don't

know how to thank you," said Ellen.

Olivia was not used to this kind of situation, so she could only laugh. "You don't have to thank me. This is what I'm supposed to do."

Helplessly, Ellen sighed. "Back then, I was always worried that both Eugene and Brian would turn bad. I was so preoccupied that I couldn't live my life peacefully. I had to nag him every time he visited me. He's probably getting tired of my nagging, but still, he only ever tells me the good news. In fact, now that the Internet is so developed, it's easy for me to find out something if I want to. Whenever I heard of the dangers they encountered, or that the two of them were in a fight again, I couldn't sleep for nights. It's only because of you that I can sit down and eat with them at the same table."

As she said that, she looked at the brothers. "Aren't the two of you going to give Olivia a toast?"

The brothers glanced at each other and couldn't help laughing. They raised the wine glasses on the table toward Olivia and said, "Thank you, Olivia."

Even North followed suit. "Mommy, I thank you too!"

"Yes. Thank you, my daughter-in-law!" said Ellen.

Olivia was dumbstruck.

Everyone at the table was looking at her and their gaze was so kind. Olivia felt like a moon surrounded by stars as she was sitting in the middle.

She had completely let go of the stone in her heart that was troubling her all day. It looked like her future mother-in-law was someone very amiable!

Pursing her lips shyly, she raised her wine glass. "We're no strangers. You guys don't have to be so polite."

Ellen laughed. "That's right. We're family. There's no need to behave that way. Olivia, quick; try the spicy crayfish I prepared."

Right when Olivia thanked everyone and wanted to reach for the dish, Eugene was one step ahead. He put gloves on and started peeling the crayfish for everyone.

Everyone was given the peeled crayfish; the atmosphere was very warm and relaxing.

After the dinner, Eugene looked at Ellen who was busy tidying up the table, and said, "Mom, come and take a seat. I have something to ask you."

Ellen put her work aside and sat down in surprise. She asked, "What is it?"

Eugene said, "For so many years, I didn't dare to ask about what had happened back then. But now that it has been so long and you're blessed with children and grandchildren, you wouldn't mind if I were to ask, right?"

"It's okay. You can ask," chuckled Ellen.

Looking at Olivia and Brian, Eugene then asked, "Why does Edward like Lara so much? I've analyzed the situation together with Olivia, and we feel like it's impossible for Edward to do things to such extent for Lara!"

Silently, Ellen let out a long sigh. As if she had gone back to thirty years ago, she stared blankly into the distance. "Of course, he wouldn't like her for no reason. It's because he thought that Lara was the one that saved his life."

Chapter 440

Upon hearing that, Eugene and Olivia glanced at each other. This revelation is too overwhelming. What's that supposed to mean?

Did Olivia really make the right guess? Things weren't really that simple?

"He thought the one who saved him was Lara? Are you saying that Lara wasn't the one that saved him?" Eugene couldn't hold himself back from asking.

Ellen nodded with sadness visible in her eyes. She then looked at Olivia, feeling a little flustered to talk about her past in front of her daughter-in-law. "Olivia, these are all trivial issues of our family. Please don't be scared away by them," said Ellen vaguely.

Olivia was startled for a moment and she said, "It's okay, Mrs. Nolan. If you find it uncomfortable for me to stay throughout the conversation, North and I can leave some space for you. We can go take a walk outside."

As she was saying this, she got to her feet and pulled North as she tried to leave.

Ellen hurriedly took her hand. "No, no. I'm just afraid that my family issues will affect your relationship with Eugene. You can stay if you don't mind."

At this moment, Eugene helped Olivia back to the sofa. "Mom, you don't have to overthink things. I'm going to spend the rest of my life with Olivia. Besides, if it weren't for Olivia, I wouldn't have

remembered to ask you about this. I haven't thought about this since the beginning and really thought that Edward was captivated by Lara."

Ellen sighed again; her voice sounded helpless. "He was indeed captivated by her. Both Edward and Lara were my university classmates, and he always had a crush on Lara. During one of our class reunions, one of the rooms in the hotel was on fire. But, restaurants thirty years ago were very undeveloped and there was no CCTV. Edward was sitting at the end of the table. Everyone was rushing toward the doors. You can imagine how crowded it was. I was sitting next to the door with Lara and so we managed to leave. But, Edward was nowhere to be seen. I was very worried so I soaked myself with water and went in again."

When I found the room, the door was closed; the entrance was blocked by a burning beam. The fire was roaring and I couldn't breathe at all. I closed my eyes and tried to put the fire out with a broom. When I finally got rid of the beam and opened the door, Lara came in. She was covered in a damp blanket and when she saw me, she put it on me. She rushed into the room and helped to get Edward out. I wanted to help her but she told me that there was someone inside the room. I didn't doubt her since we were indeed racing against time with the fire. Covering myself in the blanket, I went into the room, but I found no one. When I finally got out, Lara came in again saying that she might have been mistaken and helped me out. That day, no one knew that it was actually me who had moved the beam and opened the door."

Letting out a bitter laugh, she continued, "I couldn't explain clearly what had happened that day. I couldn't say that Lara didn't save anyone and tell everyone that she was taking credit for nothing. From Edward's perspective, it was Lara who had saved his life. In the eyes of our classmates, it was Lara who had saved me and Edward!"

Olivia was startled. "How could Lara be so scheming at such a young age?"

Helplessly, Ellen said, "She's not scheming. I was the stupid one."

Olivia frowned in response. "Then, how did you get married into the Nolans? Didn't Lara do all that to marry Eugene's Dad?"

Taking a deep breath, Ellen answered, "The Nolans had intended to arrange a marriage with the Mccarthys. Although Eugene really wanted to marry Lara, she was abroad. I told him that if he can persuade both our families, I would agree with his plan too. So, he went to the Roberts', but they told him that she already had a boyfriend and rejected his proposal. They didn't even give him a phone

number to contact her. That night, he asked me out for a drink. He told me about how much he was in love with Lara, how grateful he was that she saved him from the fire, and how if it wasn't for her, he wouldn't be alive. I didn't explain, but I did talk about the fire. Maybe he was too drunk, but he didn't hear what I said clearly. It might be that he didn't care to listen at all. Anyway, he didn't pity me at all for everything I did for him."